

Attendant Programs Today; Denise Figueroa, president, National Council on Independent Living; Tony Coelho, Chair, and Justin Dart, former Chair, President's Committee on the Employment of People With Disabilities; and Kate Miles, mother of a disabled son and advocate for long-term care and health care reform.

### **Remarks on Legislation To Ban Assault Weapons** *May 2, 1994*

Thank you very much, Chief. He's come a long way from Wisconsin to bring a little Middle Western common sense to the Nation's Capital.

When the House of Representatives votes this week on Thursday, they shouldn't forget the tragedy that the Chief just talked about. Think about it, a 30-year veteran of the police department killed by an M1-A1 assault rifle after a bank robbery, two other police officers and a hostage also wounded. These things can be prevented.

I also want to thank John Magaw for what he's said. He's done a fine job as Director of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division. And before that he was the Director of the Secret Service. I think you could tell his heartfelt concern there. He has two sons and a son-in-law, all in law enforcement. They deserve a chance to do their job with less danger, not more.

I thank Secretary Bentsen for his sterling leadership. We joked a lot of times about whether there will be somebody blocking his entrance to his ranch when he goes quail hunting this fall—[laughter]—but I don't really think so.

One of the things that I've learned since I've been here, even more than when I was a Governor, is that very often a lot of these organized interest groups don't always represent the members, their unorganized members, and what they really feel in their heart of hearts.

I want to thank the leaders of the law enforcement organizations that are here today: Bob Scully, the Director of the National Association of Police Organizations; Sylvester Daughtry, the President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police; John Pitta, the Vice President of the Federal Law En-

forcement Association; Mark Spurrier, the Director of the Major City Chiefs; and Chuck Wexler, who's with the Police Executives Research Forum.

I want you all to think about what all you've heard. There are a lot of people in this audience today who have experienced a loss of life in their own family. And I realize that here today, in a fundamental way, we're sort of preaching to the saved. But what we hope to do here is to energize you to talk to those last few Members of the House. We need to put this bill over the top, to tell them this is not about gun control; it's about crime control.

You know, I would never do anything to infringe on the rights of sportsmen and women in this country. I have—I guess I was 12 years old the first time I fired a .22 or a .410. But I think to hide behind the rights of sports people to justify the kind of unconscionable behavior that takes place every single day on the streets of this country is an unforgivable abuse of our common right to be hunters. It is an abuse of that.

All over the world today, all you have to do is pick up the newspaper, any given day, and you see how we are worried about the disintegration of civic life in other countries. We read about the horror of Bosnia, and we say, my God, why can't the Muslims and the Serbs and the Croats just get along? We read about bodies being thrown into the river in Rwanda and say, Good Lord, why are those people doing that to each other? We read now about the rise of organized crime in Russia, and it breaks our heart. They finally get rid of communism and they try to go to a more entrepreneurial society, and a new group of dark organizations springs up and commits murder. We worry about what's happening in our neighboring country south of our border, especially to our friends in Mexico, when we hear about what's being done there by people running drugs.

And we worry, we worry, we worry, and we don't look around and see we have more people behind bars already in this country, a higher percentage of our population, than any country in the world, already. And when we come up with a bill like this, they say you ought to put more people in jail and keep them there longer. Well, some people ought

to go to jail longer, and our crime bill does that.

But our disintegration, my fellow Americans, is in the streets of our cities where, as John Magaw says, we have suffered a breakdown of family and work and community, and where that vacuum has been filled by guns like this and people who use them in a very well organized way.

Will this solve all of the problems in America? No. Like John said, this is a puzzle. We're trying to fill in the puzzle with the crime bill. And in the end, the puzzle has to be filled by people like this fine chief out there on the streets of our cities, and whether the people who live in his community will work with it to take their streets back. But I'm telling you: This is an amazing—it's amazing to me that we even have to have this debate. I mean, how long are we going to let this go on?

San Francisco last summer, a gunman carrying two TEK-9's killed eight people and wounded six others. Last week, when we had an event for this bill, I'm sure a lot of you saw the husband of one of the women who was killed in that tragedy, Steve Sposato, who now is raising his beautiful daughter by himself.

Yes, that guy was crazy, and maybe he'd have gone in there with that old six-shooter and killed somebody, but Steve Sposato would like to have his wife's chances back.

Five years ago, a gunman using an AK-47 killed five elementary school kids. This happens every day. We lost two people and had three more wounded outside the CIA headquarters last year. Remember that, with a gunman with an AK-47.

So I say to you, I'm sorry to be so frustrated, but sometimes it seems that the President's job ought to be dealing with things that are not obvious. I mean, at least health care is a complex subject. It's obvious we need to do something about it, but it's complicated. I concede that; I welcome these debates.

How can we walk away from this? Especially when this bill protects over 650 specific hunting weapons? I mean, I don't understand why the organizations aren't saying, "Well, hallelujah, this is the first Federal explicit

protection we ever had for the means of hunting."

And I really—I was proud of what Mr. Magaw said, talking about the only color—I mean, I have heard people with a straight face saying, "Well, there are some adults that like to go target practice with these things." Well, they need to read a good book—[laughter]—or take up bowling or just follow—or, you know, you can hunt nearly 12 months out of the year if you hunt everything. [Laughter] This is—it is imperative. We just have a few days left.

And I urge you to spend less time with each other and more time putting the hammer of your feelings into the deliberations in the House of Representatives. And something else: No good Member of the House or Senate, no Republican or Democrat, no rural legislator should ever fear losing their seat for voting for this bill. And something else you ought to do is tell every office you call: "If you do this, I will fight for you for voting for this; I will—there may be differences over other issues, but I will do everything I can to see that nothing diminishes your standing because of this."

This is not a complicated issue. And we will have more issues like this. Every great society is going to face, for the foreseeable future, these incredible tensions between our freedom and our abuse of our freedom, between the need for liberty and the need for order, between our desire to have an entrepreneurial, free-flowing society and the absolute need for some discipline that enables us to live as human beings civilly together and give our children a chance to grow up.

And some of the decisions we'll have to make will be more difficult than this. But this is a lay-down no-brainer—[laughter]—and the Congress must not walk away from it. Please help us to pass it.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:37 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Chief David Steingraber, head of the Wisconsin Police Chiefs Association.

**Executive Order 12913—Revocation  
of Executive Order No. 12582**

*May 2, 1994*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, including section 1440 of title 8, United States Code, and in consideration of *Matter of Reyes*, 910 F.2d 611 (9th Cir. 1990), I hereby order as follows:

**Section 1.** Executive Order No. 12582 is revoked and shall be treated as void, effective February 2, 1987.

**Sec. 2.** Revocation of Executive Order No. 12582 is not intended to affect the status of anyone who was naturalized pursuant to the terms of that order prior to the date of publication of this order in the *Federal Register*.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
May 2, 1994.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,  
11:40 a.m., May 3, 1994]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on May 4.

**Message to the Congress Reporting a  
Budget Deferral**

*May 2, 1994*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report one revised deferral of budget authority, totaling \$7.3 million.

The deferral affects the Department of Health and Human Services. The details of the revised deferral is contained in the attached report.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
May 2, 1994.

**Statement by the Press Secretary on  
the President's Meeting With Vice  
Premier Zou Jiahua of China**

*May 2, 1994*

**Haiti**

President Clinton met today in the Oval Office with Chinese Vice Premier Zou Jiahua. The meeting, which lasted 40 minutes, provided both sides with an opportunity to exchange views on the current state of U.S.-China relations.

President Clinton told the Vice Premier that the United States wants to see a strong, stable, and prosperous China. The President emphasized that he wants to strengthen our bilateral relationship, but to accomplish that goal there needs to be progress on human rights as called for in last year's Executive order.

Vice Premier Zou was accompanied, among others, by Vice Foreign Minister Liu Hiaqui, Vice Minister Zeng Peiyan from the State Planning Commission, and Ambassador Li Daoyu.

**Exchange With Reporters Prior to  
Departure for Atlanta, Georgia**

*May 3, 1994*

**Haiti**

**Q.** Mr. President, are you going to send military advisers to Haiti? What is our Haiti policy, and are you thinking about military action or advisers or trainers, sir?

**The President.** Right now, what we're doing is to put in place a stiffer sanctions policy, consistent with what President Aristide has been asking for some months now. And we want to have a better enforcement of the sanctions we have as well as the stiffer sanctions. And I don't think it's useful to rule out any option, and I'm not ruling out any option.

But to use a phrase the Vice President made famous in 1992, "It's time for them to go." I mean, the military leaders of Haiti have abused their authority. They have begun to clearly kill more innocent civilians, people not even directly involved in the political life of the country.